GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:902
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
RELIEF MEASURES FOR BIHAR FLOOD VICTIMS
Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance provided to the Government of Bihar by the Railways for providing relief to the victims of flood caused by overflowing Kosi river;

(b) whether free rail service was also provided in the flood affected areas;

(c) if so, the additional expenditure incurred by the Railways;

(d) whether free food, shed and safe drinking water were also provided to the flood victims by the Railways alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(e) if so, the amount of time taken by the Railways for providing free food to flood victims;

(f) whether the Railways would provide such relief to all the other States also on the lines of this natural calamity ; and

(g) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. R. VELU)

(a): No direct assistance was provided to the Government of Bihar by the Railways for providing relief to the victims of flood caused by overflowing Kosi River. However, Railways provided free transportation of relief material like fodder, food grain, tentage, clothes, medicines, drinking water, water purifiers, ambulances etc. that was loaded by various government and non-government agencies, welfare organisations etc. to the flood affected areas in Bihar.

(b): Yes, Sir. Railways also provided free train services to transport affected persons to the safer destinations.

(c): Existing infrastructure and assets were used for the relief work. Hence, no additional expenditure was incurred by the Railways.

(d): Railways are running relief camps at some of the Railway stations of flood affected areas of Bihar wherein free food, medicines, clothes, utensils and other minor relief material are being distributed to the affected persons out of Railway Minister's Welfare and Relief Fund without incurring any extra expenditure from the Railways finance.

(e): Railway relief camps are being managed by the posted railway officials and volunteer and as such no extra time was spent by the railways on providing free food to the flood victims.

(f)& (g): Free transportation of relief material in cases of natural calamities like tsunami, earthquakes, floods, droughts etc. is granted on merits as has been the case in recent tsunami and earthquakes in Gujarat. Instructions have been issued recently for free transportation of relief material to the flood affected districts of Assam and Orissa.